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BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR.....1968

BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN His Worship the Mayor
Councillor G.O. Fry

VICE CHAIRMAN Councillor Major A.N.
Lane

COUNCILLORS:

E.J. Millbank
M. Suffield
J.O.R. Tupper
A.G.H. Woodward

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN.....Alderman E.G. Riggs

VICE CHAIRMAN Councillor Mrs G.F.
Lane

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR Councillor G.O. Fry
(ex-officio)

COUNCILLORS:

A.W.G. Adams
E.J. Millbank
M. Suffield
Miss A.A. Williams
A.G.H. Woodward

2.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

G.B. Hopkins, M.B., CH.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

holding appointments of:-

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer } 5/11th of time.
School Medical Officer }

Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum

Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District

contributing roughly:-

Borough of Blandford Forum $\frac{1}{5}$ th day per week
Blandford Rural District..... $\frac{1}{2}$ day per week
Wimborne Minster Urban District..... $\frac{1}{3}$ day per week
Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District..... $\frac{3}{5}$ th day per week

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:-

H.L. Birkett, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

Dr. Noel Pearson of the North Dorset area very kindly acts as my deputy in an honorary capacity during my holidays.

Area Office,
Health Clinic,
Rowlands Hill,
Wimborne.
Dorset.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for 1968.

I have often commenced with a short discussion on the subject of notifiable diseases and am pleased to say that this priority is becoming doubtfully justifiable. The whole subject was a very sad and gloomy one at the turn of the century, a fact which is not fully appreciated by to-day's young parents. The revolution which has occurred is based on three factors. First a huge advance in social circumstances due to better houses, more and better food and clothing and advancing enlightenment through education. Secondly the enormous strides forward in prevention through the development of vaccines against the common childhood ailments, coupled with their vigorous application, and thirdly the great strides in curative medicine mainly through the discovery of antibiotics.

The first and last of these three factors has for many years reduced the mortality from measles, and now the second factor, specific prevention through vaccines has assumed its proper place.

In the quinquennial period 1962 to 1966 in England and Wales there were 434 deaths from measles, which is 100 more than the combined total of deaths from poliomyelitis, smallpox, diphtheria and whooping cough. The measles tide ebbs and flows biennially. The flood tide of 1961 produced $\frac{3}{4}$ million notifiable cases, the actual number probably being higher, even the ebb years produce about $\frac{1}{4}$ million. A national survey suggests that of these $\frac{1}{4}$ million cases 50,000 would require four or more visits by their doctor, and one in 15 would suffer from a

potentially severe complication, for instance severe bronchitis or pneumonia in about 4%, middle ear infection in about 2.5% with just over 1% of all cases requiring admission to hospital. 4 in every 1,000 show evidence of inflammation of the brain and 1 per 1,000 actual encephalitis, with permanent mental and physical crippledom. These figures are quoted in detail in order to give an idea of the dividends to be obtained from the successful application of a measles vaccination campaign, which has already demonstrated its value in your district.

Indeed, we have every reason to be proud of the magnificent preventive and curative "umbrella" held over the modern child. There are unfortunately areas of neglect due to human failures as a glance at the Annual Reports of the N.S.P.C.C. will reveal, and there is always the sad and reproachful story of the neglect of childrens' teeth in the sphere of prevention. Far too much sticky sweet stuff continues to be chewed by most children and indeed teeth are the victims of a massive public apathy, how else can parental neglect of a good and regular diet and public neglect to fluoridate water supplies be explained? Alarming numbers of relatively young adults require full dentures but it is not sufficiently known that after many years, indeed up to three quarters of a lifetime in some cases, of erosion of jaw bone due to absence of teeth the prospect of good fitting dentures diminishes as time goes on.

It is the rule rather than the exception that even otherwise well informed parents continue to buy their childrens' teeth from them with pocket money, and at the same time fail to take enough interest in the subject of fluoridation to distinguish between fact and fancy.

The picture for the middle aged is not free from the effects of apathy.

In this age group 30% die from cancer and heart disease, 10% from strokes, 4% from violence (suicide, traffic, sport etc.,) and 7% from chronic bronchitis.

Smoking has a large impact on the proportion of deaths due to heart disease and chronic bronchitis. Lack of exercise and overeating are likewise important factors. Even in the case of traffic accidents it is apathy which determines that the majority of car occupants do not use safety belts.

That change in public attitudes is necessary is suggested by the fact that in Sweden middle aged men experience half the death rate of those in Scotland. In Norway the chances of survival from 65 to 85 are double those in England, and, nearer to home, France is improving her lead over Britain in the middle aged death rates. It is most likely that environmental factors play an important part in these differences and environmental factors are capable of modification.

My Report for 1967 advanced statistical reasons for believing that the problem of suitable accommodation for the elderly was a growing one. Experience elsewhere shows that waiting lists of elderly aspirants to warden supervised dwellings have a remarkable habit of remaining despite the provision of more and more such dwellings. The County Council scheme of grants is quite a flexible one and Councils still have complete choice of occupants of dwellings although of course no grant is payable for a tenant who does not meet the County's requirements.

Bearing in mind the prospective increase in the grant the County Scheme merits consideration and a long future of valuable use can confidently be foreseen for such supervised elderly persons dwellings.

In medieval times the serf was bound to his parish because he was ostracised outside it, he could not get a job or a house if he moved. How strange that the modern council house tenant, prospective or actual, is in a similar position. If he has been on a waiting list for five years and wishes to move he must face the "stateless" status, so far as a council house is concerned, in the new district. If he is in a council house and wishes to move he has a very slender hope of transferring, slender indeed if his move is far, otherwise he is likely to have to stay willy nilly.

Hopping into the time machine and flitting forward to 1969 and Seeborn, the latter document touches upon the need for housing authorities to be much larger and presumably advocates the disappearance of district councils in this sphere. Then the council house tenant could at least move about in his new regional authority, but he still could not move far unless by close liaison between major authorities.

But why not close liaison between district housing authorities to facilitate transfer of tenants, and preservation of eligibility and waiting list time for prospective tenants, who move from district to district?

There follows the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector and the customary details and statistics.

J. B. Hopton

JUNE, 1969.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area of the Borough.....	253 acres
Population as estimated by Registrar General - mid year	3,650
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1968	£161,168
Estimated product of ld rate on 1st April, 1968	£600
Estimated number of inhabited houses on the 31st December, 1968	1,304

AS SUPPLIED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERALBIRTHSMALESFEMALES

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Legitimate</u>	<u>Illegitimate</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Legitimate</u>	<u>Illegitimate</u>
Live Births ...	51	45	6	35	33	2
Stillbirths ...	-	-	-	-	-	-

DEATHS

Number registered	32	32
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	<u>Blandford Borough</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>Administrative County</u>
Standardised Birth rate	28	16.9	17.1
Standardised Death rate	13.3	11.9	11

COMPARABILITY FACTORS

Births	1.18
Deaths	0.76

SECTION APrevalence of Infectious and Other Diseases

Whooping Cough 4
 Measles 1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases on the T.B. register was as follows:-

PULMONARY

Males 7
 Females 2

NON-PULMONARY

NIL - all recovered

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION STATISTICS

<u>Poliomyelitis</u>		<u>Diphtheria</u>		<u>Tetanus</u>		<u>Whooping Cough</u>		<u>Smallpox</u>		<u>Measles</u>
<u>Oral</u>	<u>Salk</u>									
<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	
96	96	-	-	85	121	85	125	84	51	76 7 126

P = Primary

R = Reinforcing dose

SECTION BAMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from Castleman House.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

This is situated at Dorchester and provides an excellent free service for the bacteriological examination of human specimens, food, milk and water.

SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE HEALTH CLINIC, SALISBURY STREET

Infant Welfare Clinics are held in the Health Clinic once a month, together with numerous services provided, or assisted, by the County Council. These include the School Dental Service, Speech Therapy, Hearing Assessment and Tuition, Home Help Organiser, Family Planning, Cervical Cytology, Registrar of Births and Deaths and Chiropody for old people.

SECTION CSTATISTICAL TABLES 1968

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
1. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-
2. Malignant neoplasm, Lung, bronchus	2	-
3. Malignant neoplasm, breast		1
4. Malignant neoplasm, uterus		1
5. Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	4	5
6. Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	-	1
7. Ischaemic Heart disease	10	8
8. Other forms of Heart disease	1	2
9. Cerebrovascular disease	5	5
10. Other diseases of circulatory system	2	1
11. Pneumonia	1	2
12. Bronchitis and emphysema	3	2
13. Other diseases of digestive system	1	-
14. Congenital anomalies	1	-
15. Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	-
16. Motor Vehicle accidents	-	2
17. All other accidents	-	1
18. Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	1
	32	32

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Action taken under Acts
of Parliament

(a) Public Health Acts

Number of Informal Notices served	19
Number of Informal Notices complied with	17
Number of Statutory Notices served	8
Number of Statutory Notices complied with.....	7

(b) Housing Acts

Number of Statutory Notices served	Nil
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	Nil

(c) Number of unfit houses closed 3

Number of unfit houses demolished 11

Number of families rehoused 2

Number of persons rehoused 3

(d) Factories Acts and Regulations

Number of Informal Notices served 1

Number of Informal Notices complied with 1

Number of Formal Notices served ,..... Nil

Number of Formal Notices complied with..... Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1957

Considerable progress has been made within the Borough during the past few years in demolishing and closing unfit houses and rehousing the families.

A survey of dwelling-houses in 1960 disclosed the fact that 60 houses in the Borough were considered unfit for human habitation. Thirty-five of these have now been officially represented to the Council and in each case Demolition or Closing Orders placed upon the properties.

An area comprising of 11 dwelling-houses and outbuildings were demolished during the year and the site cleared.

OVERCROWDING

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at 31/12/68	4
Number of families therein	6
(b) Number of new cases	2
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved	4
Number of persons involved.....	16
(d) Number of renewed cases of overcrowding	2

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF AREA

Summary of Inspection and re-visits made in the course of routine work during the year 1968 by your public health inspector:-

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Houses	98
Other premises.....	72
Housing Inspections	51

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (continued)

Infectious Diseases	0
Markets	40
Factories	6
<u>Food Inspections:-</u>	
Meat inspection	4
Cafes.....	15
Ice cream premises.....	12
Grocers.....	15
Butchers.....	16
Bakeries.....	3
Fried Fish.....	6
General.....	43

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The number of food premises subject to the above Regulations are as follows:-

		Fitted with Washbasins	Premises to which Sec.19 Applies	Premises complying with Sec. 19
Bakers and confectioners	4	4	4	4
Butchers	6	6	6	6
Fishmongers	2	2	2	2
Cafes	7	7	7	7
Fried Fish	3	3	3	3

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS (continued)

		Fitted with Washbasins	Premises to which Sec. 19 Applies	Premises complying with Sec.19
Grocers	15	15	14	14
Public Houses	12	12	12	12
Sugar confectionery	12	12	8	8

Washbasins and a sink supplied with hot and cold water have now been supplied by the Council for market stallholders.

MEAT INSPECTION

The only slaughter house which was privately owned closed during the year 1962.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following foodstuffs were examined and found unfit for human consumption:

Canned cooked meats..... 92 lbs.
 Canned fruit.....118 lbs.
 Meat..... 21 lbs.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

No complaints were received under the above Act during the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Successful negotiations with the Rural District Council have resulted in the two Councils using a joint tip where controlled tipping is now being carried out in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations.

Arrangements are also made for the disposal of bulky rubbish and derelict cars.

The old refuse tip has now been levelled off and is in process of being covered with top soil.

CLEAN AIR ACT

No complaints received and no action necessary.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

All houses with the exception of two are connected with the main sewage system.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses within the Borough.

PIGEONS

Following the many complaints received of damage to the Church and other buildings caused by pigeons during 1967 Mr. Hole, the Pest Officer, carried out an intensive campaign to reduce the large numbers congregating around the town centre.

During the past 12 months, he has been most successful - trapping in all some 500 pigeons.

RODENT CONTROL

Total number of visits made by Rodent Officer	161
Number of premises surveyed on notification	41
Number of premises surveyed under Act	120
Number of premises found to be infested with rats	45
Number of premises found to be infested with mice	6
Number of premises found to be infested with rats and mice	2

A large number of complaints were received from the public of wasps nests and ant infestations. All of these were effectively dealt with by the Pests Officer.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS

PREMISES 1	Number on Register 2	Inspections 3	Written Notices 4	Occupiers Prosecuted 5
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	3	-	-
Total	38	3	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1961Part 1 of the Act (continued)

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

<u>PARTICULARS</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u>		
			<u>To H.M.</u>	<u>By H.M.</u>	
			<u>Insp.</u>	<u>Insp.</u>	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	-	-

Part VIII of the ActOutwork(Sections 133 and 134.)

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>No. on List</u>	
Wearing apparel - Making etc. cleaning and washing	9	There were no cases of default in sending lists to the Council, no prosecu- tions for failure to supplylists, no instances of work in unwholesome premises, no notices served and no presecutions.
Curtain and furniture hangings	2	
TOTAL		11

1897

1898

1899

1900

1901

1902

1903

1904

1905

1906

1907

1908

1909

